

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

200 W. Washington, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-0696  
<http://www.in.gov/legislative>

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6654**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 240

**NOTE PREPARED:** Feb 22, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 17, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Speech-Language Pathologists.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Kruse

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Rep. Thompson

**BILL STATUS:** As Passed Senate

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
☒ **DEDICATED**  
☐ **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) *DOE Life License:* The bill recognizes speech-language pathologists who: (1) before September 1, 1990, completed all the course work and obtained all the experience required to receive a life license from the Department of Education (DOE); and (2) was issued a life license by the DOE; as eligible to supervise speech-language pathology support personnel (in lieu of another requirement to have obtained a certificate of clinical competence (CCC) from a nationally recognized association).

*Clinical Experience:* The bill removes a provision requiring that, to supervise speech-language pathology support personnel, a speech-language pathologist must have at least three years of clinical experience.

*Licensure Under Certain Conditions-* The bill provides for licensure of speech-language pathologists, if certain continuing education standards are met.

*Voids Administrative Rule:* The bill voids part of an administrative rule concerning qualification requirements to supervise speech-language pathology support personnel.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2010 (retroactive); July 1, 2011.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) This provision would have an indeterminable impact on the administrative work load of the Professional Licensing Agency. The number of persons is unknown that could qualify for licensure with 36 hours of continuing education by the DOE or Professional Licensing Agency (PLA) and worked at least nine months out of the last 60 months. Based on the number of DOE licenses provided below in the background section, it is likely the number of persons that could receive licensure under this provision is small.

***VOIDS ADMINISTRATIVE RULE:*** This provision would have a minimal impact on the Legislative Services Agency, which publishes the Indiana Administrative Code.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *DOE Life License:* Under current law, persons that violate speech-language pathology law can be charged with a Class B misdemeanor. Given the bill would allow a speech-language pathologist (SLP) with a license issued prior to 9/1/1990 to supervise support personnel without a CCC-SLP, there may be a slight reduction in the number of cases involving speech-language pathologists. Fewer fines would reduce revenue to both the Common School Fund (from fines) and the state General Fund (from court fees). However, any reduction in revenue would likely be small.

Additionally, the provision would also prevent a person with a license issued prior to 9/1/1990 and without a CCC-SLP from being assessed a civil penalty for the supervision of SLP support personnel in future years. Current law requires a speech-language pathologist to have a CCC to supervise support personnel.

**Background-** The maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000. The PLA may assess a maximum civil penalty of \$1,000 per violation on a person that violates a state statute regarding the regulation of a profession. Civil penalties are deposited in the state General Fund.

(Revised) License Count- As of September 15, 2010, there were 2,302 speech-language pathologists with an active license. The DOE reports the number of speech and language therapy licenses on 9/1/1990 was 1,687.

The American Speech Language Hearing Association reports that in December 2009 there were 2,144 speech-language pathologists in Indiana with a certificate of clinical competence.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** If fewer court actions occur and guilty verdicts entered, local governments would receive less revenue from court fees. However, any reduction in revenue would likely be small.

**State Agencies Affected:** Professional Licensing Agency; Legislative Services Agency.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:** Ashley Gibson, Legislative Liaison, Department of Education, 232-6618; Professional Licensing Agency; American Speech Language Hearing Association.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.